United Nations A/58/L.13

General Assembly

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3 November 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Culture of peace

Philippines: draft resolution

Interreligious dialogue and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the importance and relevance of the themes promoted by its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations, in particular its resolutions 53/22 of 4 November 1998, 54/113 of 10 December 1999, 55/23 of 13 November 2000 and 56/6 of 9 November 2001,

Recalling also its resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002, in which the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence were fostered at all levels,

Recalling further its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, in which the General Assembly recognized that continued interreligious dialogues and the promotion of religious harmony contributed to the prevention of armed conflict,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and harmony,

Encouraged by the various initiatives and efforts at organizing interreligious dialogues aimed at assisting the United Nations and other international and national organizations in achieving peace, harmony and understanding around the world, such as the First Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 23 and 24 September 2003,

1. *Decides* to establish an Open-ended Working Group to examine the contributions of interreligious dialogue and cooperation in strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to promote international peace and harmony;

2. *Recommends* that the Open-ended Working Group explore the possibility of instituting a process and/or establishing a mechanism within the United Nations

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system with the objective of harnessing interreligious dialogue and cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to promote international peace and harmony;

3. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to submit a report on its work before the end of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Open-ended Working Group with such assistance and services as may be required to carry out its tasks.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Culture of peace

Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Viet Nam: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recalling also its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, resolution 56/5 of 5 November 2001 and resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002,

Reaffirming the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, recognizing that they serve, inter alia, as the basis for the observance of the Decade,

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.
[2] Resolution 53/243 B.

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and convinced that the effective and successful observance of the Decade throughout the world will promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/66 of 26 April 2000, entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[4]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,[5] including paragraph 28 thereof, which indicates that each of the ten years of the Decade will be marked with a different priority theme related to the Programme of Action,

Noting the relevance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the special session of the General Assembly on children, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, as well as the need to implement, as appropriate, the relevant decisions agreed upon therein,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peace-building, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Noting that its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict could contribute to the further promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking into account the "Manifesto 2000" initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization promoting a culture of peace, which has so far received over seventy-five million signatures of endorsement throughout the world,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/6,[6]

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, is to strengthen

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] A/56/349.

[6] See A/58/182.

further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000;

2. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular during the Decade, at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

3. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for recognizing the promotion of a culture of peace as the expression of its fundamental mandate, and encourages it, as the lead agency for the Decade, to strengthen further the activities it has undertaken for promoting a culture of peace, including the dissemination of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace and related materials in various languages across the world;

4. *Also commends* the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the University for Peace, for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

5. *Encourages* the appropriate authorities to provide education, in children's schools, that includes lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace;

6. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to strengthen its efforts in furtherance of the objectives of the Decade, inter alia, by adopting its own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations;

7. *Encourages* the involvement of the mass media in education for a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people, including through the planned expansion of the Culture of Peace News Network as a global network of Internet sites in many languages;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue the communication and networking arrangements established during the International Year for providing an instant update of developments related to the observance of the Decade;

9. *Invites* Member States to observe 21 September each year as the International Day of Peace, as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

10. *Also invites* Member States as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to provide information to the Secretary-General on the observance of the Decade and the activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

11. *Emphasizes* the significance of the plenary meetings on the item planned for its sixtieth session,[7] and in that regard encourages participation at a high level, and decides to consider, at an appropriate time, the possibility of organizing those meetings as close as possible to the general debate;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

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[7] See resolution 55/47, para. 13.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 41
Culture of peace

Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Viet Nam: draft resolution

International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Belize, Colombia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 20
Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen: draft resolution

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994, 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998, 54/36 of 29 November 1999, 55/43 of 27 November 2000, 56/96 of 14 December 2001 and 56/269 of 27 March 2002,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[2] in particular paragraphs 6 and 24 thereof,

Recalling further the declarations and plans of action of the five international conferences of new or restored democracies adopted in Manila in 1988, Managua in 1994, Bucharest in 1997, Cotonou in 2000 and Ulaanbaatar in 2003,

Recalling that the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies focused on democracy, good governance and civil society,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for the successful organization of the Fifth International Conference,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance convened in 2002 and 2003, as well as those held under the auspices of the Fifth International Conference,

Taking note of the views expressed by Member States in the debate on this question at its fifty-sixth to fifty-eighth sessions,

Bearing in mind that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization, good governance practices and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the support provided by Member States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to the Government of Mongolia for the holding of the Fifth International Conference,

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[2] See resolution 55/2.

Taking note of the conclusions of the parliamentarians' forum held in Ulaanbaatar on 11 September 2003 and the contribution of the ensuing parliamentary declaration to the proceedings of the Fifth International Conference,

Welcoming the holding of an international civil society forum within the framework of the Fifth International Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] and its focus on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society[4] adopted at the Fifth International Conference on 12 September 2003,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society[4] adopted at the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Ulaanbaatar from 10 to 12 September 2003;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up to the Fifth International Conference and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, including those set out in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. *Recognizes* that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization and good governance within the context of their development efforts;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing coherent and adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

6. *Stresses* that the activities of the Organization must be undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support efforts to consolidate democracy and good governance, and requests him to continue those activities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and good governance, including the provision of support to the President of the Fifth International Conference in his efforts to make the Conference and its follow-up more effective and efficient;

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[3] A/58/392.

[4] A/58/387, annexes I and II.

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 25
University for Peace

Andorra, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay: draft resolution

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/2 of 22 October 2001, in which it recalled that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge relative to peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, and in which it also recalled its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, in which it approved the establishment of the University for Peace, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Noting that in 1991 the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, established a Trust Fund for Peace consisting of voluntary contributions in order to provide the University with the means necessary to extend its sphere of activity to the whole world, taking full advantage of its potential capacity for education, research and support of the United Nations and to carry out its mandate of promoting peace in the world,

Noting with appreciation the vigorous actions taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the encouragement and support of the Government of Costa Rica, to revitalize the University, [1]

Recognizing the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2001 to 2003, with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the development and implementation of the academic programme

[1] See A/54/312, para. 2.

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and the expansion of its scope worldwide as part of a five-year programme of expansion and revitalization,

Noting with satisfaction the activities directed towards expanding the University's educational and research programmes to Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean,

Also noting with satisfaction the progress made in the development of teaching programmes at the master's level, short courses, programmes to disseminate course materials and distance education and the establishment of a digital library on peace-related issues,

Noting that the University has placed special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-building and peaceful settlement of disputes, and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts,

Noting also that the University has launched a broad programme for building a culture of peace in Central America and the Caribbean in the context of the efforts being made by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the development and promotion of a culture of peace,

Noting with appreciation the intensifying collaboration between the University and organizations and agencies of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and others,

Considering the importance of promoting education that fosters peaceful coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture, as well as friendship and solidarity among peoples,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General outlining the progress made in revitalizing the University for Peace, especially in regard to implementation of the five-year programme of revitalization and expansion;[2]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the important work of the University for Peace and its potential role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through research and dialogue in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to consider further ways to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider using the services of the University as part of his conflict-resolution and peace-building efforts and in the promotion of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[3]

4. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and interested individuals to contribute to the Trust Fund for Peace or to the budget of the University;

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[2] A/58/430.

[3] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

5. *Invites* Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[4] thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "University for Peace".

[4] See resolution 35/55, annex.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 25
University for Peace

Andorra, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay: draft resolution

University for Peace

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Greece, Monaco, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste and Ukraine

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